

REMARKS

Claims 11-18 and 20 are pending in this application, with Claim 11 being the sole independent claim. Claim 17 has been withdrawn from consideration.


In Cahill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,398), the image layer (18) of a recording medium is adhered to a substrate, and the ink-receptive layer (16) and protective layer (14) are formed on the image layer (18) at the side from which the image is observed. Cahill, et al. further describes that the protective layer (14) may be provided with a matt surface; an example of how to achieve the matt surface is by including in the layer particles sufficiently large to give the layer surface irregularities. (See column 5, lines 25-30.) In the present invention, an image that is brightened like a rainbow can be produced in the transparent ink receiving layer by interference of the light reflected with the metal layer formed on the embossed transparent substrate to obtain a decorative image with gloss (See Samples A and B attached hereto.) In contrast, Applicants submit that in Cahill, et al., since the protective layer is provided with a matt surface, it is impossible to obtain a decorative image with gloss as in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants conclude that Cahill, et al. does not teach or suggest that a decorative image is obtained by interference of light reflected with an embossed substrate.

Cahill, et al. provides an extensive selection of possible materials to be used as the substrate (22): flexible polymeric film, paper, textile fabric, metal film or web, glass, ceramic, plastic, cardboard, or composites or laminates thereof. Cahill, et al. also states that the substrate (22) may vary in size, shape and surface topography. One example is that the substrate may be embossed. (See column 7, lines 21-44.) Applicants note that an excellent decorative image as provided by the present invention is obtained only when a metal film is selected as the substrate, and the selected metal film is embossed. Applicants submit that since in Cahill, et al. a protective layer provided with a matt surface may be used, Cahill, et al. does not provide any motivation to emboss a metal film in order to obtain a decorative image with gloss as in the present invention.

Applicants therefore conclude that Cahill, et al. does not teach or suggest that the effects of the present invention can be achieved by combining one of the examples of surface processing with one of the examples of a substrate material from among those that are merely recited in Cahill, et al. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the present invention is not obvious over Cahill, et al.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Samples A and B

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